

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the pending application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Status of the Application

Claims 8-10, 18-23 and 25-42 are currently pending, with claims 1-7, 11-17 and 24 being canceled without prejudice to pursue such claims in a continuation or divisional application. Of these, claims 8 and 39 are amended. As the amendments to claims 8 and 39 are fully supported by the application as filed, no new matter has been introduced into the application by way of these amendments.

Summary of the Office Action

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4, 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent 7,008,559.

Claims 9, 25-38 and 40-42 are indicated as allowable, while claims 8 and 39 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Discussion

In their response dated November 13, 2007, Applicants amended claims 8 and 39 to place them in independent form and canceled claims 1-4, 6, 7 and 10, without prejudice, with the intention of placing the application in condition for allowance. Applicants also requested rejoinder of one or more of the withdrawn claims as appropriate.

The Advisory Action dated November 19, 2007, advised that the amendments would not be entered as claims 11-17 and 24, if rejoined, are not in condition for allowance.

The undersigned discussed this matter with the Examiner yesterday, and was notified that the application would be allowable if claims 1-7, 11-17 and 24 were canceled. Accordingly, in this response, Applicant again presents the (previously unentered) amendments to claims 8 and 39, and also cancels, without prejudice, claims 1-7, 11-17 and 24.

Entry of the amendments, and passage of the application to allowance, is therefore respectfully requested.

Conclusion

As Applicant believes the application is in proper condition for allowance, the examiner is respectfully requested to pass the application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

/Christopher T. Griffith/

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